

Guardian

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35TH ANNIVERSARY

Earth Day

Armor plate saves lives



ROLLING OVER IS FOR DOGS,
NOT HUMMVS!

PRACTICE ROLLOVER EXERCISES AND
MAKE SAFETY A PRIORITY!

This message brought to you by Task Force Falcon Command Information

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PHOTO COURTESY OF GROUND AMBULANCE



PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS DUFF E. MCFADDEN

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COVER PHOTO BY SPC. LYNETTE HOKE

Staff Sgt. Travis Bachman of B Company, 2nd Platoon, Task Force Tornado, hands a student from a Pozaraje/Pozhoran secondary school, a donated tree during an Earth Day event.

The next, greatest generation

by *Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Romans*

I remember (just barely), having my oldest brother, Robert, come home on leave, with his arm in a cast. He was a submarine sailor during the Korean conflict. I was about three years old at the time. I stood there in awe looking at those dress blues with the Submariner Dolphins on his chest.

I remember my next oldest brother, David, coming home on leave from the 82nd Airborne Division after jump school in 1960. He was proud of those new airborne wings and that 82nd Airborne patch.

My next older brother, Mike and I joined in 1969 right out of high school. We were raised by loving parents, grounded in faith, patriotism and family. We all expected to serve our country.

When my brothers and I get together and talk, our collective military experience spans over half a century. There is a certain amount of one-upmanship and good-natured kidding about who had it "toughest." Brothers will do that.

But when the conversation comes around to the topic of "Do Americans still have the right stuff" to serve their country, the same "right stuff" as the greatest generation did, I get serious.

There have been many changes in the Army. Rightly so, as the Army is a dynamic, living organization. Most changes I agree with, some I do not. But one constant I have seen since I first enlisted is the quality of our troops. Strategy, tactics, training and equipment are all very important. But they mean nothing without the Soldier. I'm talking about the Peacemakers who are a part of this battalion and this brigade. I'm talking about YOU!

There are nations in the world, and even some Americans at home, who think U.S. Soldiers of today don't have the stomach for a fight, that Ameri-

cans do not have the "will," to get the job done.

I'm here to tell you, that is wrong. Our Soldiers today have answered America's call with the same dedication, courage and commitment to duty as their fathers and grandfathers did in Vietnam, Korea, World War II, and all our nation's conflicts. Today, women have joined the force, willing to pick up arms and fight alongside their brothers.

I have witnessed a few, very few Soldiers who worked at staying behind. They have to live with that choice. The great majority worked hard at deploying with their friends, peers and units, because they believe so strongly in the value of their service.

I remember my mother telling me when I was little of the long lines outside the recruiting station after Pearl Harbor. We faced that same challenge again after 9-11. The Soldiers of Task Force Falcon made the same hard choice to leave their home and family behind. You are professionals. You are dedicated to your fellow Soldiers. You are committed to getting the job done. When this tour is over and you go home, know that the world is a better place because of your sacrifice. Violence has not happened here, because Soldiers like you are standing guard. Children have a chance to grow up in peace and security, because you are standing guard. A future is possible because you were standing guard. When the history of this place is written, you will have been an important part of it.

"I'm proud of you, and I'm proud to serve with you," said Command Sgt. Maj. A. Frank Lever III, Army National Guard, during his Town Hall meeting. He said back home, they are calling you the next greatest generation.

I think he is absolutely right.

Guardian

Produced for Personnel of KFOR Multinational Brigade (East)

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Quicktime

Aircraft lighter ban also applies to servicemembers

Anyone, including servicemembers carrying lighters will be required to surrender them at U.S. airport security checkpoints before boarding aircraft under a new federal law that became effective April 14, Transportation Security Administration officials said.

The new law also applies to military and civilian passengers on commercially-chartered U.S. military overseas flights, noted Army Lt. Col. Scott Ross, a spokesman with U.S. Transportation Command at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

"Due to al-Qaeda's continued efforts to create improvised explosive devices, prohibiting lighters onboard aircraft and in the sterile areas of airports will reduce current security vulnerabilities and add another layer of defense," a TSA document stated.

President Bush signed the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 on Dec. 17, 2004.

The act mandates that butane lighters be added to the list of items prohibited from being carried aboard aircraft that depart from or land at U.S. commercial airports.

The new law applies to "anything that produces a flame," including Zippo brand and other lighters, said TSA spokesman, Chris Jolma. However, aircraft passengers may still carry up to four books of matches, according to TSA documents.

The law also bans lighters from being placed in both carry-on luggage and cargo baggage, according to the TSA.

"Wherever there's a TSA (security) checkpoint, we're responsible for

enforcing the law," Jolma noted, adding, "Folks should definitely inspect their baggage before going to the airport, just to avoid the hassle."

On Dec. 22, 2001, passengers aboard American Airlines Flight 63 en route from Paris to Miami stopped British citizen Richard Reid from lighting a fuse attached to an explosive hidden inside his sneakers.

Reid, a self-confessed al-Qaeda sympathizer, was later convicted in a U.S. federal court of trying to blow up the plane. He is now serving a life sentence.

Jolma agreed Reid's failed attempt to bring down Flight 63 alerted U.S. authorities of the need to tighten up airline security. And, he pointed out, global terrorists continue to look for "innovative means" to bring down aircraft. ■

Soldier survives sniper attack in Iraq, credits ballistic vest

Less than a month ago, Army Spc. Anthony Dowden was shot in the back with a sniper rifle, while serving in Iraq. He survived with nothing more serious than bruises, thanks to a new high-tech "small-arms protective insert" armored plate in his ballistic vest.

The 22-year-old tank crewman, deployed from Fort Stewart, Ga., was on a routine security patrol in Iraq March 22. After spending some time performing "overwatch" at a checkpoint, Dowden stood up in his tank's turret to get a better look at a young Iraqi man with what appeared to be an AK-47 rifle.

He soon realized the young man

had a pellet gun and posed no threat.

"After a few minutes of observing him wondering why he was running around, what exactly he was doing, I put my binoculars down and looked down inside my tank to look for footing to lower myself down," Dowden said in an interview with American Forces Press Service. "And that's when I got hit."

He said his unit's leaders believe he was shot with a sniper rifle.

"I felt just this incredible force on my back," Dowden said. "It threw me forward."

The shot took a divot out of the lower edge of the armor plate and resulted in a bruised kidney and "a

massive bruise" on the side of Dowden's back. Paperwork has been submitted to award the Hilton Head, S.C., native a Purple Heart medal.

Dowden, a member of 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, of the 3rd Infantry Division, said he feels without a doubt that the SAPI plate saved his life. He said he believes he's well-served by the Army-issued protective equipment. "It's the best that we can get right now," he said.

During an April 11 visit to Baghdad, Iraq, by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, Dowden and his division commander, Maj. Gen. William Webster, presented the damaged plate to the secretary as a memento. ■

Linking up for support



Some Soldiers in Kosovo like to pass the time on the Internet where they can chat with friends and family and stay connected with what is happening in the world.

Whether time on the web is spent in the comforts of your own room or in one of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities, the World Wide Web technology is one way to keep troops occupied.

As a deployed Soldier, there are several ways that can help take your mind off the length of time away from loved ones. The list provided is a link to several web sites who want to support you and your

families during deployment. Some of the web sites your friends and family have to sign you up for to qualify, so make sure to pass along those sites, so deployed Soldiers can receive free items.

With everything from cookies to phone cards, there should be something here to benefit every Soldier who makes the effort to check them out.

Keep in mind some of these organizations like to receive feedback from Soldiers and families to either post on their sites or encourage people to continue volunteering.

Presents! Staff Sgt. Sara Maniscalco, broadcast journalist Non commissioned Officer In Charge, Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD) Falcon, opens a care package donated from the website volunteers of Operation Shoebox.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SPC. ALICIA DILL

Free stuff Web sites

<http://www.operationhomelink.org/> - free computers for spouses or parents of deployed soldier in ranks E1 – E5.

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2004/2/prweb106818.htm> - free mail/gifts sent to children of deployed soldiers.

<https://www.operationuplink.org/> - free phonecards.

<http://www.operationshoebox.com/> - free shoebox care package.

<http://www.treatthetroops.org/> - free cookies.

<http://bluestarmoms.org/airfare.html> - lowest airfare available.

<http://bluestarmoms.org/care.html> - free care packages.

<http://66.241.249.83/> - free air conditioners/heaters.

<http://www.heromiles.org/> - free air travel for Emergency Leave and for the family members of injured soldiers.

<http://www.bluestarmothers.org/airlinespecials.php> - airline discounts for R & R.

<http://www.booksforsoldiers.com/forum/index.php> - free books, DVD's, CD's.

<http://www.militarymoms.net/sot.html> - free care packages (your family member signs up to have sent to you).

<http://operationmilitarypride.org/smsignup.html> - free care packages.

http://www.soldiersangels.org/heroes/submit_a_soldier.php - get adopted to receive stuff.

<https://www.treatsfortroops.com/registration/index.php> - free gifts and care packages.

http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Nov2004/n11232004_2004112312.html - free shipping/packing materials

* These websites are not promoted or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army, USAEUR, or Multinational Brigade (East).



U.S. ARMY IMAGE

Medal Of Honor bestowed on Sgt. 1st Class Smith

Smith distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty.

The President of the United States, authorized by an Act of Congress awarded the Medal of Honor to Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty.

"I would like to thank all of the Soldiers who influenced Paul as he advanced through his military career. Most described him as tough, fair and always putting the mission and his Soldiers first. Paul was proud of all of his troops, particularly those in B Company, 2nd Platoon, 11th Engineer Battalion. He was dedicated to duty and unwilling to accept less than the best," said Brigit Smith, his widow.

Smith joined the 11th Engineer Battalion in 1999 and immediately became an integral part of B Company. When he deployed with his platoon to Kosovo in May 2001, as part of the KFOR 3A rotation, Smith was responsible for daily presence patrols in the highly-populated town of Gjilan/Gnjilane. In the spring of 2002, he was promoted to sergeant first class and completed the Advanced Non-commissioned Officer Course in August 2002.

In Jan. 2003, Smith returned from leave to prepare his men for rapid deployment to Kuwait as part of the 3rd Infantry's Divisions buildup for Operation Iraqi Freedom. He took a strict approach to training his men, ensuring his platoon was proficient

in handling weapons and prepared for urban combat.

B Company crossed the border on March 19th and traveled more than 300 kilometers in the first 48 hours of the war. They were part of the lead company in support of Task Force 2-7 Infantry. Passing through the Karbala Gap, Smith and his men pushed through the night of April 3, 2003 towards Baghdad Airport where B Company, 11th Engineer Battalion of Task Force 2-7 were involved in a fire-fight with Iraqi forces.

Smith distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action with an armed enemy near the Baghdad International Airport, Baghdad, Iraq, on April 4, 2003.

On that day, he was engaged in the construction of a prisoner of war holding area when his Task Force was attacked by a company-sized enemy force.

Realizing the vulnerability of over 100 fellow Soldiers, Smith quickly organized a hasty defense consisting of two platoons of troops, one Bradley Fighting Vehicle and three armored personnel carriers.

As the fight developed, the engineer braved hostile fire and personally engaged the enemy with hand grenades. He also used anti-tank weapons and organized the evacuation of three wounded Soldiers from an armored

personnel carrier struck by a rocket-propelled grenade and a 60 mm mortar round.

Fearing the opposing forces would overrun their defenses, Smith moved under withering enemy fire to man a .50 caliber machine gun mounted on a damaged armored personnel carrier. In total disregard for his own life, he maintained this exposed position in order to engage the opposing forces. During this action, he was mortally wounded.

His courageous actions helped defeat the enemy attack, and resulted in as many as 50 anti-coalition insurgents killed, allowing the safe withdrawal of wounded Soldiers. Smith's extraordinary heroism and uncommon valor are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 3rd Infantry Division "Rock of the Marne," and the United States Army.

The President, in presenting the Medal of Honor on April 4, 2005 said, "Sergeant Smith gave his all for his men. Five days later, Baghdad fell, and the Iraqi people were liberated. Today, we bestow upon Sergeant Smith the first Medal of Honor in the war on terror. We count ourselves blessed to have Soldiers like Sergeant Smith, who put their lives on the line to advance the cause of freedom and protect the American people."

Excerpts and story courtesy of army.mil/medalofhonor. ■



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROUND AMBULANCE

Sgt. Grant Cooper, medic, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-160th Infantry, Task Force Sidewinder, starts an IV as a Swedish evaluator looks on during the treatment.

Training turns up the heat

As the flame from the burning car intensifies and the growing heat washes over the medical team, this two vehicle accident quickly becomes a test of countless hours of hands-on training. With many problems being addressed at once and the lives of injured patients on the line, time speeds up for these Kosovo Forces Soldiers working side by side.

"It goes from being a training exercise, knowing it is a training exercise, to it feeling very real, very quickly," said Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Kennedy, Non-commissioned Officer In Charge, Ground Ambulance team, C Company, Task Force Med Falcon "You can definitely feel the heat from the vehicle.

The Lake Forest, Calif. native said, "You are concentrating on patients, and they are screaming and yelling, moan-

ing and groaning and you're starting Intravenous Lines (IV), and that's real."

"It goes from 0 to 60, very fast," he said".

This type of action-packed situation is part of the training Task Force Med Falcon, Task Force Shadow and the Swedish National Supply Unit (NSE) Fire and Rescue Platoon completed, April 10, outside Camp Victoria (the Swedish Camp), said 1st Lt. Katrina Seale, Ground Ambulance Platoon Leader and Headquarters and Headquarters Company Commander, Task Force Med Falcon.

After a call was made to simulate a 9-line Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC), the car crash quickly became reality for Soldiers looking for hands-on experience. Task Force Med's, Ground Ambulance team was the first to arrive

on the scene, after being diverted from a reconnaissance mission in Pristina, said Kennedy. After an assessment of the scene they called in the Swedish Fire and Rescue Platoon to assist.

After the Swedish arrived, a second ambulance from Task Force Med appeared to help wherever needed, he said.

Of the Swedish patients from the first car, one had simulated burns on over 50 percent of his body and the second had minor burn. With one vehicle engulfed in flames, the second car had three Swedish casualties still trapped inside, said Kennedy.

"We extracted the patients using the jaws of life," he said. "They had to pry the dashboard away from them to get the patients out of the vehicle."

"The driver was stuck and we had



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROUND AMBULANCE

Swedish Fire and Rescue Platoon, along with Sgt. Alex Tafoya of Task Force Med Falcon Ground Ambulance, evacuate patients up a hill.

to wait for the fire team to cut the roof off to get him out of there,” said Sgt. Johanna Lundstrom, medic, Swedish Fire and Rescue Platoon. “I was there with the patient, holding his neck, waiting for them to cut the roof and he was losing his pulse and his blood pressure was going down, it was very critical.”

After evaluating the scene, both Task Force Med Falcon and the Swedish Fire and Rescue Team worked together to save lives. The effectiveness of the training was determined by Swedish evaluators, four registered nurses and one doctor, who were assigned to each casualty. Both the Swedish and Task Force Med Falcon Soldiers were evaluated.

“The evaluator went from start to finish with the patient, the entire route,” said Kennedy. “From the time the medic goes up to the patient, to the treatment of the patient and to the medical evacuation, the evaluator is there.”

Having an evaluator throughout the mission was something new for the American medical team and a constant for the Swedish team, said Kennedy.

With them present, the stress of the scenario was turned up a few more degrees.

“They are evaluating their abilities to assess the patients and then to treat,” said Seale. “You have the stressful situation of starting IV’s and if you’re

nervous, you’re shaking.”

The evaluation process wasn’t the only difference in the way the two countries operated.

“They sent out a Quick Reaction



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROUND AMBULANCE

Swedish Fire and Rescue Platoon use the “Jaws of Life” to cut the roof off the vehicle and get the patients out to treat and evacuate them.

Force with 10 Soldiers who secured the scene where there were kids playing on the soccer field,” said Kennedy. “The way we do it, is the senior medic also pulls security.”

“I am only one guy and I’m watch-

ing out for bad people, talking on the phone, calling in the medical evacuation and relaying information to the Tactical Operations Center,” he said. “It was cool because we got there and securing the scene was already taken care of.”

Another element, besides the treatment of the patients, was the evacuation by helicopter and ground ambulance. The Task Force Shadow Air Ambulance team took helicopter evacuees to the medical facility at Camp Victoria, keeping the training relevant to both Task Force Med Falcon and the Swedish Fire and Rescue Platoon.

“The Swedish team doesn’t have the air medical evacuation capabilities we have so they wanted to train with the helicopters,” said Seale.

This was also the first time the Swedish rescue team trained to load patients in the helicopter, said Lundstrom.

“The Swedish only have two ambulances and in this case, there were five casualties so we needed to evacuate

the patients with helicopters,” said 2nd Lt. Jacob Soderbergh, registered nurse, Swedish NSE Fire and Rescue Platoon. “If this were a real accident we would have to have help from another country.” *Training continued on page 23*



Sgt. 1st Class Sean West, Squad Leader, C Company, 1st Platoon, Task Force Tornado, picks up trash with primary school students during a break in the school day.

Soldiers and students work together during Earth Day

In honor of the 35th anniversary of Earth Day, a couple of squads from Task Force Tornado decided to take note of this occasion and involve the citizens of the towns they patrol.

One squad decided to plant a few trees with the help of some secondary school students in the town of Pozararje/Pozhoran. Another squad decided to facilitate a school yard clean up with a primary school on their patrol in the town of Buzovik/Bukovik.

Soldiers and children worked together to promote and put an emphasis on maintaining a clean environment.

One squad from B Company, Task Force Tornado, really enjoyed interacting with the seniors at the high school in Pozararje/Pozhoran. There were four Soldiers and one interpreter and 20 high school seniors to assist with the planting of a handful of pine trees.

As the troops assisted the students with planting trees, the feeling of environmental awareness and community involvement was easily achieved among the Soldiers and the students.

"I really enjoyed helping the kids plant a few trees. I come from a law enforcement background in the United States. I like helping people and the communities," said Staff Sgt. Tim Hoesli, Squad Leader, B Company, 2nd Platoon, Task Force Tornado.

"I think this was a good thing; we, as Kosovo Forces, will help them rebuild, as long as the citizens within the community put forth the effort," said Cpl. Travis Polen, B Company, 2nd Platoon,



Spc. Jason Bryan from B Company, 2nd Platoon, Task Force Tornado helps students from the secondary school in Pozararje/Pozhoran secure the baby pine tree that was planted in remembrance of Earth Day on April 22nd.

Task Force Tornado, "I think showing that principle to the students could be a part of the economical success in the future."

"Planting the trees was a good opportunity to work with the children, instead of doing something directly for them," said Spc. Jason Bryan, B Company, 2nd Platoon, Task Force Tornado, "the kids were really responsive to it. Some went back to their houses to get shovels to help dig."

Other Soldiers took a different approach to environmental awareness. The four members of Task Force Tornado, C Company, 1st Platoon, implemented trash pick up in the school yard in the town of Buzovik/Bukovik.

"It was very easy and kind of fun.

Most of the kids made the trash pick up a game," said Sgt. 1st Class Sean West, squad leader, C Company, 1st Platoon of Task Force Tornado. "If we can continue this kind of attitude over the course of our tour here, maybe we can get them into the habit of throwing their trash into a trash bag instead of on the ground."

"It was really rewarding to know that we are able help these kids out and maybe provide them an environment similar to the one I grew up in," said Spc. Keith Falker, rifleman, C Company, 1st Platoon, Task Force Tornado.

"It is nice to know that we can help them out. We could provide a safe environment, so that kids could run

Earth Day continued on page 23



Sgt. Daniel Wright, C Company, 1st Squad, Task Force Tornado helps students pick up trash in town of Buzovik/Bukovik their school yard.

ON FOOT PATROL

*Story and photos by
Spc. Lynette Hoke*

Command Sgt. Maj. A. Frank Lever III, Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard, visited Camp Bondsteel, April 21st. Lever serves as the Army National Guard Director's personal advisor on all enlisted matters, with special emphasis on quality of life and training.

Lever spends the majority of his time visiting National Guard Soldiers and Airmen deployed around the world, observing training and visiting schools.

On his trip to Camp Bondsteel, Lever discussed his concern for deployed National Guard troops. "I came out here to basically find out what is going on with the Soldiers," said Lever. "I think it is my obligation and duty to figure out where they are with family life, how we in the Guard are treating them, what things we can do better and what they are looking for in the Guard and I take that back to my leadership."

Lever's genuine concern for National Guard servicemembers was obvious during his Town Hall meeting when he opened up the forum for questions. "I want to find problems--pay problems, promotions problems--those are the things that I want to find to try and make the Guard a better place for Soldiers," he said.

"You are the ones out here doing the job; we really want to hear from you," he said. "It is just not us coming to you."

Another subject Lever discussed with the leaders was personal career goals and unit advancement while on deployment. "The Soldier now knows that he or she will be here for 12 months and I think leaders now have to encourage their Soldiers," he said. "Leaders know when you were





Command Sgt. Maj. A. Frank Lever III, Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard (center) and Sgt Ricardo Telles (right), Squad Leader, 40th Military Police Company, 1st Platoon, Task Force Dragoon, Camp Montieth, go on a short patrol through the town of Urozevac / Ferizaj during his visit to Kosovo.





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Top, Sgt. Michael Horton, 40th Military Police Company, 1st Platoon, Task Force Dragoon in Camp Monteith and Command Sgt. Maj. A. Frank Lever III, Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard talk briefly about promotions and overall quality of life during his time so far in Kosovo.

Lower Left, Command Sgt. Maj. A. Frank Lever III gives a child in Urosevac / Ferizaj a piece of candy at the end of the patrol.

Lower Right, Command Sgt. Maj. A. Frank Lever III takes a minute to pose for a picture with a few children in Urosevac / Ferizaj that were playing soccer.

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Top, The members of 2nd Squad, 1st Platoon, of the 40th Military Police Company, Task Force Dragoon, in Camp Monteith go on a short patrol through the town of Urosevac / Ferizaj during Command Sgt. Maj. A. Frank Lever III, Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard visit to Camp Bondsteel on April 21st.

Lower Left Top, Command Sgt. Maj. A. Frank Lever III sits at a round table from Soldiers from around Camp Bondsteel during breakfast to discuss issues of concern.

Lower Left Bottom, During a town hall meeting at Camp Bondsteel, Command Sgt. Maj. A. Frank Lever III answers questions and comments from Servicemembers.

CSM continued on page 23



Sgt. Clayton W. Glover, 259th Military Company, Heidelberg, Germany, assigned to the K9 Unit at Camp Bondsteel, takes a minute to show his dog, Rio, a little affection during a break in a training session.

A different breed of Battle Buddy

Story and photos by Spc. Lynette Hoke

Stubby," was America's first unofficial war dog, serving 18 months during World War I. The dog saved his regiment from surprise attacks and located wounded Soldiers. Stubby's list of accomplishments was a key factor in creating the "K9 Corps," just before World War II.

At Camp Bondsteel, working military dogs are available for force protection missions or to embark on any given task for the forces in the Multinational Brigade (East) sector in Kosovo.

One of the major factors that makes military working dogs so valuable is their acute sense of smell. A human will smell a pizza and maybe could identify the onions or the green peppers on it, but a dog can be trained to detect a specific odor regardless of other scents present, said Sgt. Clayton W. Glover, 259th Military Police Company, Heidelberg, Germany. Glover is an active-duty military police officer, assigned to the K9 unit at

Camp Bondsteel.

The number of toppings on a pizza will give off a variety of mixed smells, the key of working with a dog is that it can be trained to smell just the peppers, said Glover. This characteristic is very important when training them to detect the exact scent of narcotics or explosives, he said.

"We can provide force protection for Camp Bondsteel," said Staff Sgt Darren Smith, 259th Military Police Company. Smith is an active duty military police officer and Kennel Master assigned to the K9 unit at Camps Bondsteel and Monteith. "There is no one standard mission for a K9 unit."

"What kind of mission we go out on varies," said Sgt. Fred A. Lambert, 259th Military Police Company. Lambert is an active duty military police officer assigned to the K9 unit at Camp Bondsteel.

"We can provide force protection for a base or force protection for any kind of company or government

agency," he said.

When the dogs are not needed on a mission, there is a lot of extra training and maintenance the handlers are responsible for. It takes a handler approximately six months to get to know the dog and instruct it to detect, find and respond to the aroma of explosives or narcotics.

"The dogs are qualified for obedience, explosives and narcotics," said Glover. "My dog, Rio, is trained for aggression, obedience and explosives."

Keeping the K9s at a high skill level takes daily training, constant discipline, interaction and a lot of self-motivation from the handler. "When we are not out on a mission, we are working with the dogs, doing patrol work and doing detection work," said Lambert. "We have to make sure the dogs get to the veterinarian and make sure they are in good health so they will be able to work."

"When we are not out in the sector, we run through hand and arm signals



Staff Sgt. Darren Smith shakes Rio, off during a training session with Sgt. Clayton Glover on Camp Bondsteel. Smith and Clayton are with the 259th Military Police Company, Heidelberg, Germany. They are currently assigned to the K9 Unit on Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo.

with the dogs. We run them through the obedience course and we are just having fun," said Glover.

The K-9 unit enjoys their jobs and part of it has to do with working with their closest friends, their dogs.

"They could be someone's housedog, chewing on a couch, or chasing cats around the neighborhood, but they are here working for a much greater cause," said Smith.

"My job is very interesting, really fun and I meet a lot of good people," said Glover. "One day you could be taking a walk in the park and the next day you are saving someone's life," he said.

"I love my job, I like working with dogs and I love the independent factor of K9," said Smith, "You have to be self-motivated, a self-starter and you have to be able to make decisions on the spot."

"I love dogs very much, I have two dogs of my own, and ever since then, I wanted to get into the K9 program," said Lambert.

Being a military member in a K9 Unit isn't all "puppy love." The job is challenging, said Glover.

"Most people think we have a really easy job," he said, "They see us walking around with the dogs, but don't know about the time and effort that we put into training the dogs."

"The dog develops a bond with their handler," said Smith. "It is something that is unbelievable. It gets to the point where the handler and the dog can communicate just by looking at each

other."

Four-legged battle buddies were not always integrated into the military. Dogs were first officially inducted into the Army on March 13, 1942, according to the War Dogs World-Wide Website.

One historic story of a K9 saving the life of its handler was of a Paramus Police Officer, Al Gunderson, according to the website. Just 20 years old, Gunderson spent a year patrolling the perimeter of an Air Force Base in Phu Cat, Vietnam, with his dog, King. On one typically hot night, Gunderson knelt for

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Sgt. Corey Harold, 259th Military Police Company, Heidelberg, Germany, assigned to the K9 Unit on Camp Bondsteel and his dog, Bruno, search the bags of demobilizing Soldiers at the Irish Camp.

A change for the better

Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Duff E. McFadden



More than 400 people turned out for Transfer of Authority ceremony held March 24th in Gjilan/Gnjilane. Beginning with 14 officers in November 1999, there are now approximately 1,000 KPS officers serving in six stations throughout the Gjilan/Gnjilane region.

With the simple unfurling of a flag, the Kosovo Police Service (KPS) Regional Headquarters (RHQ), Gjilan/Gnjilane region, became a reality, March 24, as the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) Civil Police handed regional law enforcement responsibilities over to the KPS.

The transition of authority was historic, as Gjilan/Gnjilane became the first region to be entirely comprised of multi-ethnic KPS officers.

Beginning with 14 officers in November 1999, there are now approximately 1,000 KPS members serving at six different stations throughout the region. Of those officers, 85 percent are male and 15 percent are female, with an ethnic breakdown of 81 percent Albanian and 17 percent Serbian,

When U.N. Security Council Resolution 1244 was established, it tasked

UNMIK with two strategic goals: 1) Provide temporary law enforcement; and 2) Establish and develop a professional, impartial and independent local police force, called Kosovo Police Service.

With the forced withdrawal of the Serbian Interior Ministry Police (MUP) from Kosovo following the war, a Kosovo-staffed police force needed to be built from the ground up.

After recruiting qualified candidates, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and UNMIK opened up the Kosovo Police Service School in Vucitrn/Vushtrri. A total of 176 recruits made up the first graduation class, Oct. 16, 1999.

However, according to Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, Police and Justice component (Pillar I), Jean Dussourd, a police service is only as successful as allows itself to be.

"KPS is the leading institution in which inter-ethnic cooperation not only works, but the organization is better for it," he said.

"As you move forward, your continued success will be found through embracing the multi-ethnic spirit that has brought you this far.

"Through inter-ethnic harmony, great things will come. Embrace it, enjoy it," Dussourd added.

"Today, Kosova is passing through an important phase and is facing, with success, a lot of challenges," said Adem Salihaj, the deputy prime minister of Kosovo Government. "The standards on which we are all working are the highest priority of Kosova government and in all this, the Kosova Police Service has an important role.

"The standard of security cannot be achieved without your hard engage-



Reshat Maliqi, KPS Commander of the Gnilan/Gnjilane region, salutes the newly-unfurled Kosovo Police Service flag. The KPS Regional Headquarters is the first to be completely composed of multi-ethnic KPS police officers.



The Kosovo Police Service has been trained to control hostile situations, and at the Transfer of Authority ceremony they stand together with their shields.

ment as members of this service and we do appreciate your role. A safe and stable Kosova, with democratic and effective institutions, is the best guarantee for all citizens, regardless of ethnicity, religion, race or political opinion. The security and freedom of movement, return and integration of all in our society, will be a priority and we will pay special attention to this in the work of Kosova government," said Salihaj.

For UNMIK Regional Commander John Kane, the transition was a positive, yet moving experience.

"Here in Gjilan/Gnjilane, I have seen the KPS develop. From its first mission in 2000, from patrol officers, to the situation we have now, a full Senior KPS Regional Command staff and RHQ support officers, six KPS station commanders and staff, and the full support from KPS Headquarters staff," said Kane.

"At this time, I feel different emotions," Kane continued, "proud to be part of the UNMIK developing the KPS, happiness that I have achieved this part of the mission and sadness that on the road to this day we have had some police

officers, local and international, who have given their life for the rule of Law and Order."

Those officers – the eight KPS and three international officers slain in the line of duty – were recognized with a moment of silence,

For Col. Reshat Maliqi, KPS Regional Commander, a regional KPS headquarters represents a bright and peaceful future for all Kosovars.

"At the time when Kosovar citizens were leaving the country because of the violence and repression against them, I was in prison and I kept asking myself, will there ever be security and life in Kosova.

"Now, full of confidence and honesty, I tell everyone that here, after a lot of years of suffering, there is peace and security for all the citizens and Kosova is building its future based on healthy democratic policies," Maliqi said.

Now that the Gjilan/Gnjilane region has a modern, democratic police force trained to deal with community policing in compliance with international standards, UNMIK police officers will now act as executive advisors to the KPS.

"A few weeks ago, I visited the police stations in the Gjilan region and I've seen their officers from all ethnicities and genders working together," Maliqi said.

"I saw a police force that had the strength and the people capable to stop the law-breaking minority in order to ensure a happier and safer life for the law-abiding majority," he said.

"The level of crime will decrease if every community has a considerable number of officers and if the population and other institutions help the police by reporting the criminal acts. In this region, this is achieved, but all this would not be enough unless the judicial system does not place the decent, law-abiding citizen in the center of its attention.

"Our work is public, and every action of the police is observed and evaluated by the population. We will be transparent and won't be afraid of it," he said.

"The local public opinion is very important. We are aware of this and we will try very hard to justify the trust of the population," he said.

What makes the Army: Soldiers

One Soldier talks about why the Army has helped him become a better person and set him up for success with his career goals. He said this deployment in Kosovo is the highlight of his Army career.

Spc. Pedro A. Cardenas, Combat Engineer, Task Force Sidewinder, adjusts the control panel for a radio program he works with on Radio Primera, in Kamenicë/Kamenica.



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. R. DAVID KYLE

Why did you join the Army?

I didn't like the job I had back home, so I took the initiative and joined the military in January 2003. I wanted to do something good with my life and I thought the Guard was a good choice. I wanted to join the Guard because it would give me more time at home with my son than active duty. I am the first person in my family to join the military and my mom didn't want to sign the papers because I was 17. So my recruiter came over and explained things to her and she changed her mind. I went to Fort Leonard Wood for Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training. I thought it would be like a summer camp, but I realized it wasn't when I was given like 20 seconds to call my mom to let her know I arrived.

What is a day in the life of Spc. Cardenas like here in Kosovo?

I am a driver for my squad. I usually wake up between 6:00 and 6:30 a.m., depending on my SP (Start Point) time. After getting the mission I perform PMCS (Preventative Maintenance Checks and Services) on my vehicle and get everything ready that I need for the mission. We may do a mounted reconnaissance patrol through the cities and talk with the people about how things are going for them. We also ask if anyone has been bothering

them or if they have seen any illegal activity in the area. I enjoy working with the guys in my squad, because we get along. My squad is made up of different backgrounds, I have a friend from New York who is a pretty good guy; there is another guy from northern California, a country boy. It has been fun; we get to mix in and get to know each other.

With all the different things you've done in your career, what has been the highlight?

I have been in the military a little over two years and the highlight of my career is this deployment. I really think this has been a jump start for my life because it has helped

Full Name: Pedro A. Cardenas
MOS: 21B – Combat Engineer
Hobbies: Football, exercise, spending time with son
Hometown: Van Nuys, Calif.
Unit: Company A, 578th Engineers

me to be mentally, physically, and emotionally prepared for whatever happens. Even at my age, I have duties and responsibilities that are important. I hope to continue to meet new people and pick up leadership skills.

How has the army helped you?

The Army has made me a better person by helping me to realize

what I have, especially back home. People here are not as fortunate to have the things we have back home. This deployment has really opened my eyes. Kids my age back home don't realize what they have and take it all for granted. The Army has also helped me to mature. A lot of the guys my age back home drop out of school or just party and drink, not caring about their lives. Here, I have had the experience of going in front of a board when I was nominated as the Soldier of the Month. I want to push myself to be a leader.

What is your civilian job back home?

I am a security guard.

Has your military career helped you on your civilian job?

Yes, of course, and someday I want to be a police officer. My experience will also help increase the opportunities I have back home. I like communicating with other people, and I like helping them out. I believe my time here will help me become a police officer.

What words of wisdom would you offer to someone facing a deployment here in Kosovo?

Communication between Soldiers has to be good. Getting along has been key for our squad. If you can't get along, the mission might not work out and you won't accomplish what you need to. ★

Troops receiving the new ACUs

Velcro unit patches, pixilated patterns and new boots form the new Army Combat Uniform.

The new Army Combat Uniform (ACU) worn here by Gen. Dan K. McNeill, Commanding General, United States Army Forces Command, Ft. McPherson, Georgia, during a visit to Camp Bondsteel.



PHOTO BY SPC. LYNETTE HOKE

The U.S. Army is on schedule with their April projection and have started to issue the new Army Combat Uniform (ACU).

They're issuing the new uniforms to deploying units first. So that means if you'll be heading to Iraq or Afghanistan, you might just get them on the way to your deployment.

Everyone else should have them by the end of 2007. Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers will be issued four ACUs in the next couple of years whereas active component Soldiers will have to purchase their own via their clothing replacement allowance.

Still, being issued the ACU is certainly preferable to buying a couple sets, especially at \$88 per set.

But when you do get one, you can expect a lot of changes.

The uniform's most obvious change is the new pattern which is a pixelated. The digital-looking scheme softens the contrast of the camouflage pattern. It is based on the new U.S. Marine Corps uniform and designed to be worn everywhere in the world.

The absence of hard lines should enable the wearer to stay more concealed, not only when stationary, but also on the move. Although the pattern is not the best for every mission, it is certainly usable across multiple environments.

Unlike the Battle Dress Uniform, the ACU uses velcro or zippers. The pockets, nametapes and patches all use

velcro.

There are two sides to this issue. Velcro can be noisy as well as get dirty. When velcro gets dirty, it loses some of its ability to stay closed. Also, if the hook and pile has a problem, it can be difficult to fix in the field.

Trying to close buttons when in the prone position isn't easy. If you've ever worn tight body armor, shirt pockets can be difficult to open.

The Army has been using items with velcro, like body armor and the load-bearing vest for years, and no one has really complained loudly about it. It seems that the functionality of velcro has triumphed over the buttons.

Pockets have changed a great deal with the ACU. The pockets on the chest are not only angled, they are optimized for use with body armor. The velcro certainly helps here in that you can open the body armor and open the pocket to get what you need, something not accomplished easily if there were buttons on the flap.

The new ACU also has shoulder pockets and a three-slot pen pocket on the arm. While having a pen pocket that you can actually use is sure to be handy, the shoulder pockets will definitely increase storage when using body armor.

The front-tilted leg pockets even have an elastic drawstring to make sure what you put in the pocket, stays in. There's even a calf pocket to hold small items.

On top of all that, there's a pocket in the new patrol cap. On the elbows and knees are flaps to put on knee and elbow pads.

An added advantage of the new ACU is that putting on new patches won't cost as much to perform. It has always been expensive to get new uniforms ready for wear.

With the ACU, you simply attach them. A single rank insignia goes in the front and not on the collar, so we'll all have to re-train ourselves in where to look when trying to determine rank and if saluting is required.

The ACU also has a permanent press treatment to keep Soldiers looking good and keep them from spending money on dry-cleaning.

One of the more notable items on everyone's mind are the new boots. There are two kinds of boots to be worn with the ACU: a temperate climate boot with Gore-Tex liner and a desert suede boot.

The nice thing about the ACU is that it was field-tested first. With information based on how Soldiers work and fight. The current BDU was designed around 20 years ago when most of the Army didn't wear body armor or knee-pads.

Three different versions of the uniform were sent to Iraq and other locations for testing. Some of the best elements of the thousands of uniforms produced were combined into the final ACU. ★

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Helicopters landed on the soccer field and the MEDEVAC team became part of the life-saving training, said Sgt. 1st Class Blake James, first sergeant, Company C, Task Force Shadow, Air Ambulance.

Once the simulated patients were sent to Camp Victoria for further treatment, the medical teams from both countries could reflect on their learning experience.

"For the first time working with another country, we do almost everything the same way, as far as medical treatments," said Seale. "They were impressed with our skills and we were impressed with the capabilities they had."

"I know I can get help from the Swedish," said Sgt. Grant Cooper, medic, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Task Force Sidewinder. "I know their capabilities and how they will react and what they will come with."

With a positive attitude emerging from a successful training exercise, it is easy to see why future training is already being planned, said Kennedy.

"Right now someone can get in an accident outside of our gate and we have to be prepared for that, so this is the best thing we can do," said Seale. "it's real life training." ★

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a moment and suddenly the dog pulled on his arm.

"He almost pulled it out of my socket," says Gunderson, now over 60 years old. A moment later, Gunderson saw the head of a Viet Cong emerge from the brush in front of him. The Viet Cong ran off a few seconds later, but without King's warning, Gunderson believes he and many other Americans probably would have been shot, according to the website.

Such encounters have formed powerful bonds between dogs and handlers throughout history and continue to be a key to survival in wartime and peacekeeping operations around the world. ★

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back home that you have your job, family and friends; you had a lot of distractions. Leaders can be more proactive now than at back home with furthering education, additional job training and physical fitness advancements."

Lever also emphasized the opportunity for Soldiers to get to know one another. "Soldiers back home just go

to drill once a month, two weeks a year; troops just don't get a chance to know someone like they could get to know them here," he said, "In my opinion, that is a good part of growth and career development. I think a deployment is a good opportunity for growth, not only the individual but the unit as well."

Lever became the seventh Command

Earth Day, continued from page 11



Tommy James, Director of Logistics (DOL) for the AST, and Brig. Gen. William Wade II, Commanding General, Multinational Brigade (East) plant a tree at Camp Bondsteel, April 22nd.

around at recess and not have to worry about falling down and hurting themselves on some kind of garbage," he said.

According to the Earthday Enviro-link World Wide Website, the history of Earth Day evolved over a period of seven years starting in 1962 by Senator Gaylord Nelson. Five months before Earth Day, on Sunday, Nov. 30, 1969, The New York Times carried a lengthy article by Gladwin Hill reporting on the astonishing proliferation of environmental events:

"Rising concern about the environmental crisis is sweeping the nation's campuses with an intensity that may be on its way to eclipsing student discontent over the war in Vietnam...a national day of observance of environmental problems...is being planned for next spring...when a nationwide environmental 'teach-in'...coordinated from the office of Senator Gaylord Nelson is planned..."

According to Nelson, it was obvious

that they were headed for a spectacular success on Earth Day. It was also obvious when grassroots activities had ballooned beyond the capacity of his U.S. Senate office staff to keep up with the telephone calls, paper work, inquiries, etc.

Earth Day worked because of the spontaneous response at the grassroots level. Nelson said, they had neither the time nor resources to organize 20 million demonstrators and the thousands of schools and local communities that participated. That was the remarkable thing about Earth Day. It organized itself, he said.

The motivation of the people and children who participated in this event, showed the high level of interest in nurturing their local environment.

"If the trees we helped plant in front of the school do survive and grow, it will be a symbol of the relationship between Kosovo Forces and the citizens within the province," said Bryan. ★



PHOTO BY SPC. LYNETTE HOKE

Parting Shots